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SEP 13 2007

Attorney Docket No. 46521-56183
Application Serial No. 10/720,330

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Cancelled).

2. (Cancelled).

3. (Cancelled).

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Cancelled).

6. (New): A system of stackable tissue processing cassettes comprising:

a first cassette, the first cassette comprising a bottom wall, a front wall, a back wall, and two side walls with the bottom wall, the front wall, the back wall, and the side wall forming a first container having a top opening, wherein a histological specimen can be placed within the first container through the top opening of the first container; and

a second cassette, the second cassette comprising a bottom wall, a front wall, a back wall, and two side walls with the bottom wall, the front wall, the back wall, and the side wall of the second cassette forming a second container, the bottom wall of the second cassette includes a plurality of apertures extending therethrough, wherein the first cassette can be interlocked with the second cassette such that the bottom wall of the second cassette closes the top opening of the first container to prevent the histological specimen from exiting the first container, wherein the plurality of apertures of the bottom wall of the second cassette allow liquid paraffin to flow from one of the first and second containers and into the other of the first and second containers while the first and second cassettes remain interlocked.

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7. (New): The system of stackable tissue processing cassettes in accordance with claim 6, wherein the second cassette can be interlocked with the first cassette when the second cassette is positioned relative to the first cassette and the first cassette and the second cassette are snapped together.

8. (New): The system of stackable tissue processing cassettes in accordance with claim 7, wherein the first cassette interlocks with the second cassette such that when the first cassette is snapped together with the second cassette, there is a audible sound upon completion.

9. (New): The system of stackable tissue processing cassettes in accordance with claim 8, wherein the bottom wall of the first cassette includes a portion having a generally planer upper face so that when the first cassette interlocks with the second cassette, the second cassette is moved relative to the first cassette in a direction generally perpendicular to the generally planer upper face so that the first cassette and the second cassette are snapped together.

10. (New): The system of stackable tissue processing cassettes in accordance with claim 6, wherein the bottom wall of the first cassette includes a plurality of apertures extending therethrough.

11. (New): The system of stackable tissue processing cassettes in accordance with claim 10, wherein each of the side walls of the first cassette includes a plurality of apertures extending therethrough.

12. (New): The system of stackable tissue processing cassettes in accordance with claim 6, wherein the first cassette and the second cassette have generally identical geometry and dimensions.

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13. (New): A system of stackable tissue processing cassettes comprising:

a first cassette, the first cassette comprising a bottom wall, a front wall, a back wall, and two side walls with the bottom wall, the front wall, the back wall, and the side wall forming a first container having a top opening, wherein a histological specimen can be placed within the first container through the top opening of the first container; and

a second cassette, the second cassette comprising a bottom wall, a front wall, a back wall, and two side walls, with the bottom wall, the front wall, the back wall, and the side wall forming a second container, the bottom wall of the second cassette comprising a plurality of apertures extending therethrough, wherein the first cassette can be interlocked with the second cassette, wherein the plurality of apertures of the bottom wall of the second cassette allow liquid paraffin to flow from one of the first and second containers and into the other of the first and second containers while the first and second cassettes remain interlocked.

14. (New): The system of stackable tissue processing cassettes in accordance with claim 13, wherein the first cassette is devoid of a lid for closing the top opening of the first container, and the first cassette interlocks with the second cassette such that the bottom wall of the second cassette closes the top opening of the first container to prevent the histological specimen from exiting the first container.